

IN THE CLAIMS:

Set forth below in ascending order, with status identifiers, is a complete listing of all claims currently under examination. Changes to any amended claims are indicated by strikethrough and underlining. This listing also reflects any cancellation and/or addition of claims.

1. (currently amended) A computer implemented method of overclocking a graphics system, comprising:

receiving a user request for overclocking;

forming sets of overclocking parameters to be evaluated from a set of supported overclocking parameters pre-selected for said graphics system that includes a set of graphics processor core clock rates and memory clock rates having an initial starting point and a maximum end point each set of overclocking parameters having at least one overclocking parameter that is unique and which is associated with at least one of a graphics processor and a graphics memory;

for each set of overclocking parameters, automatically applying a stress test, said stress test including executing a graphics test sequence and monitoring pixel errors of said graphics system; and

automatically determining a safe set of overclocking parameters within said set of supported overclocking parameters passing said stress test wherein said set of overclocking parameters passes said stress test if the number of pixel errors is below a threshold level.

2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein each set of supported overclocking parameters includes a fan speed and a fan speed is automatically selected for said safe set of overclocking parameters wherein said forming sets of overclocking parameters comprises:

adjusting a clock rate of a clock of said graphics system.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said forming sets of overclocking parameters comprises:

adjusting a graphics processor core clock rate.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said forming sets of overclocking parameters comprises:

adjusting a graphics memory clock rate.

5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said set of supported overclocking parameters includes chip voltages, memory timings, and fan speeds and said forming sets of overclocking parameters further comprises:

adjusting at least one clock rate to form at least one new clock rate; and

setting ~~at least one of~~ a chip voltage, memory timing, and or a fan speed for each said at least one new clock rate.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said forming sets of overclocking parameters and said applying said stress test comprises:

incrementing a clock rate of said graphics system to form new sets of overclocking parameters; and

applying said stress test for each incremental increase in said clock rate;

said clock rate incremented until a number of errors associated with said stress test exceeds a preselected number of errors.

7. (cancelled)

8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said applying said stress test comprises:

writing to a three dimensional surface;

performing an exclusive or operation; and

determining uniformity.

9. (cancelled)

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said determining a safe set of overclocking parameters passing said stress test comprises: selecting a maximum safe clock rate of a graphics processing unit.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said determining a safe set of overclocking parameters passing said stress test comprises: selecting a maximum safe clock rate of a graphics memory.

12. (Currently amended) A computer implemented method of overclocking a graphics system, comprising:

receiving a user request for overclocking of at least one of a graphics processor and a graphics memory;

adjusting a clock rate of at least one clock of said graphics system by selecting a new clock rate from a set of supported overclocking parameters pre-selected for said graphics system that includes a set of graphics processor core clock rates and memory clock rates having an initial starting point and a maximum end point;

for each new clock rate within said set of supported overclocking parameters, automatically applying a stress test, said stress test including executing a graphics test sequence and monitoring pixel errors generated in response to execution of said graphics test sequence;

automatically determining a maximum clock rate for each of said at least one clock for which said graphics system has a number of pixel errors below a threshold level; and

setting said at least one clock rate at said maximum clock rate(s).

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein said receiving a user request comprises: receiving an input from a control panel of a graphical user interface.

14. (Previously presented) The method of claim 13, further comprising: displaying said graphical user interface with updated overclocking parameters.

15. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein adjusting said clock rate of at least one clock comprises: incrementing a core clock rate of a graphics processing unit.

16. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein adjusting said clock rate of at least one clock comprises: incrementing a memory clock rate of a graphics memory.

17. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein adjusting said clock rate of at least one clock comprises:

incrementing a first clock rate by a first preselected increase in clock rate; and
incrementing a second clock rate by a second preselected increase in clock rate.

18. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein said applying said stress test comprises: counting pixel bit errors of a graphics pipeline.

19. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein said applying said stress test comprises:
writing to a three dimensional surface;
performing an exclusive or operation; and
determining uniformity.

20. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising:
sensing on-chip temperature; and
in response to detecting a threshold temperature during stress testing, selecting a clock rate to maintain a chip temperature at or below said threshold temperature.

21. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising:
for each new core processor clock rate, selecting a chip operating voltage.

22. (currently amended) A graphics system, comprising:
a graphics processing unit (GPU), comprising:
a graphics pipeline; and

an overclocking control module for selecting and evaluating overclocking parameters from a set of supported overclocking parameters pre-selected for said graphics system that includes a set of graphics processor core clock rates and memory clock rates having an initial starting point and a maximum end point;

said graphics system configured to automatically test overclocking parameters and determine maximum safe overclocking parameters in response to a user request by selecting overclocking parameters from said set of supported overclocking parameters, implementing a stress test that includes executing a graphics test sequence, monitoring pixel errors, and determining maximum overclocking parameters parameters within said set of supported overclocking parameters generating a number of pixel errors below a threshold level.

23. (Original) The graphics system of claim 22, wherein said overclocking control module performs a stress test to evaluate errors generated by said graphics pipeline for each test set of overclocking parameters.

24. (Original) The graphics system of claim 22, wherein said graphics system includes computer executable instructions for running a control panel program having an overclocking control module for selecting and evaluating overclocking parameters and wherein said user inputs said request to said control panel.

25. (Original) The graphics system of claim 22, wherein said graphics system determines a maximum safe GPU clock rate.

26. (Original) The graphics system of claim 22, wherein said graphics system determines a maximum safe memory clock rate of a graphics memory associated with said GPU.

27. (Original) The graphics system of claim 22, wherein said graphics system determines a maximum safe GPU clock rate and a maximum safe memory clock rate of a graphics memory associated with said GPU.

28. (Currently amended) A computer readable medium having computer executable code for implementing a software driver module for a graphics system, comprising:

computer program code disposed on said computer readable medium for implementing a software driver of a graphics system having at least one function call instantiated in response to a control panel input to automatically perform a stress test on each of a plurality of sets of overclocking parameters from a set of supported overclocking parameters pre-selected for said graphics system that includes a set of graphics processor core clock rates and memory clock rates having an initial starting point and a maximum end point, each set of overclocking parameters including at least one element from the group consisting of a graphics processor core clock rate and a graphics memory clock rate;

said software driver module automatically selecting overclocking parameters from said set of supported overclocking parameters passing said stress test, by implementing a stress test that includes executing a graphics test sequence, monitoring pixel errors, and determining maximum overclocking parameters within said set of supported overclocking parameters generating a number of pixel errors below a threshold level.

29. (Currently amended) A graphical user interface for a graphics system, comprising:

a control panel for displaying overclocking parameters that include at least one of graphics processor core clock rate and a graphics memory clock rate, said control panel permitting a user to select an automatic overclocking mode;

said control panel instantiating a function call to said graphics system to automatically test different overclocking parameters from a set of supported overclocking parameters pre-selected for said graphics system that includes a set of graphics processor core clock rates and memory clock rates having an initial starting point and a maximum end point, set overclocking parameters, and return overclocking parameters to said control panel in response to a user selection of said automatic overclocking mode, said graphics system implementing a stress test that includes executing a graphics test sequence, monitoring individual pixel errors, and determining maximum overclocking parameters from within said set of supported overclocking parameters generating a number of pixel errors below a threshold level.

30. (Currently amended) A graphics apparatus, comprising:

means for selecting sets of overclocking parameters to test from a set of supported overclocking parameters pre-selected for said graphics system that includes a set of graphics processor core clock rates and memory clock rates having an initial starting point and a maximum end point;

means for automatically performing a graphical stress test for said sets of overclocking parameters; and

means for automatically determining safe overclocking parameters parameters within said set of supported overclocking parameters passing said graphical stress test;

wherein said overclocking parameters comprise at least one of a graphics processor core clock rate and a graphics memory clock rate;

said graphical stress test including executing a graphics test sequence, monitoring pixel errors, and determining maximum overclocking parameters generating a number of pixel errors below a threshold level.

31. (Currently amended) A graphics system, comprising:

means for a user to initiate a request to select overclocking parameters of at least one of a graphics processor and a graphics memory from a set of supported overclocking parameters pre-selected for said graphics system that includes a set of graphics processor core clock rates and memory clock rates having an initial starting point and a maximum end point;

means for selecting sets of overclocking parameters to test;

means for automatically performing a graphical stress test for said sets of overclocking parameters; and

means for automatically determining safe overclocking parameters within said set of supported overclocking parameters passing said graphical stress test;

wherein said overclocking parameters comprise at least one of a graphics processor core clock rate and a graphics memory clock rate;

said graphical stress test including executing a graphics test sequence, monitoring pixel errors, and determining maximum overclocking parameters generating a number of pixel errors below a threshold level.

32. (Original) The graphics system of claim 31, further comprising: control panel means for displaying maximum safe overclocking parameters.